Volunteer Chaplain

1014.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy outlines the process and intent for Thurston County Corrections Facility to provide religious services in accordance with local, state, and federal laws.

1014.2 POLICY

A volunteer Chaplain, qualified and ordained, when available, will administer to the spiritual and temporal needs of the inmates in the Thurston County Corrections Facility (TCCF) and Correctional Options in an effort to keep the inmates active in their faith and in touch with members of the community.

1014.3 RELIGIOUS PROGRAM COORDINATION

A volunteer Chaplain will work in conjunction with the Jail Ministries Coordinator to coordinate and oversee the facilities' religious programs, service, and activities. The Chaplain and Jail Ministries Coordinator will develop and maintain close relationships with religious resources in the community and use these outside resources to the fullest extent they can while meeting the following considerations:

(a) The Chaplain will discuss the selection, use, and supervision of volunteers with the Jail Ministries Coordinator and ensure that the activities of visiting faith volunteers will be confined to religious matters. Volunteers will not be allowed to enter any part of the facility other than where they have been allowed to go, or espouse any other points of view, philosophies, etc., than those related to their faith and worship.

(b) In order to develop a more effective ministries program, religious speakers from the community may be invited periodically to participate in worship services.

1014.4 JURISDICTION OF THE CHAPLAIN

(a) Chaplains will confine themselves to activities in those matters as directly relate to the religious aspects of the inmates' institutional lives and programs, with the exception that they will also be able to provide the inmate with basic temporal needs such as underclothing, socks, and greeting cards, when these donated items are available.

(b) The Chaplain will not become involved in providing legal advice to inmates.

(c) The Chaplain, as a confidant, has a dual responsibility to the inmate and to the Corrections Bureau. They will be expected to keep pastoral confidences intact, while concurrently maintaining responsibility to the facility to maintain security, and provide for the protection of the facilities, members, and the inmate population.

The Chaplain will, on occasion, serve as a religious representative for the facilities by participating in community affairs.

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1014.5 CHAPLAIN AND OUTSIDE FAITH REPRESENTATIVES

(a) The Chaplain will make routine visits to the various areas of the jail in order to meet with the inmates and discern the inmate population's needs.

(b) The Chaplain may, with the permission of the Chief Deputy of Corrections, or designee, gather from the outside community specific items of underclothing, faith based publications, cards, etc., which they may disperse to the inmate population upon inmates' requests for such items.

(c) Members may contact the Chaplain, via e-mail or in person, and express concerns on behalf of inmates the members feel could benefit from speaking with the Chaplain.

(d) All members have the responsibility of observing the Chaplain and other clergy and volunteers in the facilities and:

(a) A Deputy will intervene immediately if volunteers are observed acting in a manner that compromises a member, an inmate, or facility security to prevent breaches of safety and security.

(b) If the matter is not exigent, the member may choose to discuss the situation with the volunteer at a later time or pass the concern on to the Inmate Support Services Lieutenant, or designee, for follow-up.

If a religious leader wishes to visit inmates of their congregation or those with a preference for their religious affiliation, the religious leader will submit a request which will be forwarded to the Chaplain or the Jail Ministries Coordinator.

(a) The Chaplain may offer input to the Jail Ministries Coordinator on these requests. The Jail Ministries Coordinator, or designee, will verify the credentials of the clergy or volunteer and ensure a background check is performed on the volunteer before they are allowed entry into the facilities.

(b) The Jail Ministries Coordinator will designate the appropriate facilities and time for the religious visit when the application is approved.

(c) Visiting religious leaders will be advised of all applicable rules, regulations, policies, procedures, and directives of the facilities.

(d) Emergency visits by outside clergy follow the same procedure as above.

(e) Religious visits will be granted by the Corrections Technicians only upon written approval from the Support Services Captain, or designee. Religious representatives may also utilize Video Visitation to visit inmates.

(f) All visiting religious representatives will be acquainted with, and will abide by all rules pertaining to the facilities.

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